

**OVERVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
PORTFOLIO**

1. Since the last meeting of Council, the following are the main areas of work undertaken under the Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio:

(a) Recycling

The Waste Treatment/Recycling/Disposal Contract continues to improve the Council's performance with regard to Recycling. For the first nine months of the last financial year, April 2010 through to December 2010, a total of 16,112 tonnes of waste has been recycled, composted or reused. This represents 43.4% of all household waste.

(b) Climate Week

A number of local events were organised for the first national Climate Week during the week of 21-27th March.

- (i) Several Primary Schools entered the Climate Champions poster competition, with over 300 posters in total.
- (ii) A staff awareness event took place during Climate Week, encouraging staff to take part in the One Minute Challenge and come up with ideas to save energy and save money.
- (iii) The Climate Champions event took place on 26th March in the Dolphin Centre and was well attended by local residents who are doing their bit to save energy and cut carbon and would like to share their experience and knowledge with other residents.
- (iv) Officers have developed new pages on the Council's website, within the Sustainable Darlington section, which provide residents, businesses and schools with further information on action they can take to tackle climate change.

(c) Schools Social Marketing project

The Council is participating in a regionally funded Social Marketing pilot with schools. The North East Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (NEIEP) has commissioned the National Social Marketing Centre to provide training and support to the local authorities taking part in the pilot. The project will look at improving energy management within schools.

(d) Green Fair

The Green Fair will take place on 15th May in South Park. This year's event will build on the success of the last 6 years. Officers have been developing new working relationships to secure funding for the event and to develop the Local Food agenda.

(e) Climate Change Adaptation Schools

GurneyPeasePrimary School and AldermanLeachPrimary School held a celebratory event in February to share their experiences of taking part in the regional Climate Change Schools Adaptation Challenge. This is an excellent example of cross school working.

Councillor Nick Wallis
Sustainable Environment and Climate Change Portfolio